

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear comprising:

an upper;

an outer bottom assembly, the outer bottom assembly comprising:

an outsole;

an elastically deformable element, the elastically deformable element ~~being substantially arch-shaped~~ having a substantially arch shape in a transverse direction of the outer bottom assembly, the elastically deformable element having an uppermost portion beneath extending downward from a lower end of the upper, the arch shape of the elastically deformable element extending downward from the uppermost portion to medial and lateral edges, respectively, of the outsole;

the elastically deformable element being located in a heel zone ~~or~~ and/or in a forefoot zone of the article of footwear; and

a layer of shock-absorbing material positioned between the elastically deformable element and the outsole.

Claim 2. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the elastically deformable element comprises a material having a Young's modulus of at least 40 Mpa.

Claim 3. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 2, wherein:

the elastically deformable element includes an upper end with a substantially planar zone.

Claim 4. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 3, wherein:

the planar zone has a width of about 15-20 millimeters.

Claim 5. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the elastically deformable element comprises ~~an~~ at least one medial arm and at least one lateral arm.

Claim 6. (*Canceled*)

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear according to ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein:

the layer of shock-absorbing material comprises at least one recess between said layer and the elastically deformable element.

Claim 8. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the elastically deformable element is fixed to the upper via a connecting member/wedge.

Claim 9. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

an outer stiffener is positioned between the upper of the shoe and the elastically deformable element.

Claim 10. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the elastically deformable element comprises polyurethane.

Claim 11. (*New*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the elastically deformable element comprises polyethylene.

Claim 12. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:
the elastically deformable element comprises a composite material having a Young's modulus of at least 50 Mpa.

Claim 13. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:
the elastically deformable element does not extend upwardly at the medial and lateral edges of the outsole.

Claim 14. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:
the elastically deformable element is located in the heel zone of the article of footwear.

Claim 15. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:
the elastically deformable element is located in the forefoot zone of the article of footwear.

Claim 16. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:
the elastically deformable element is located in the heel zone and in the forefoot zone of the article of footwear.

Claim 17. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 16, wherein:
in the forefoot zone of the article of footwear, the elastically deformable element has a height greater than a height of the elastically deformable element in the heel zone of the article of footwear.

Claim 18. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 16, wherein:
in the forefoot zone of the article of footwear, the elastically deformable element has a height less than a height of the elastically deformable element in the heel zone of the article of footwear.

Claim 19. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 16, further comprising:
a sole reinforcement element;
the elastically deformable element comprising a rear part of the sole reinforcement element and a front part of the sole reinforcement element, the front part of the sole reinforcement element being planar.

Claim 20. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 19, wherein:
the front part of the sole reinforcement element is connected to the rear part of the sole reinforcement by means of a inclined zone in a plantar arch area.

Claim 21. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 8, wherein:
the connecting member/wedge comprises EVA.

Claim 22. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 8, wherein:
the connecting member/wedge comprises TPU.

Claim 23. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 8, wherein:
the connecting member/wedge comprises PU.

Claim 24 (New) An article of footwear according to claim 8, wherein:
the connecting member/wedge comprises PA.

Claim 25. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:
the arch shape of said elastically deformable element extends transversely from said uppermost central portion at least to a position vertically beneath a medial side of the upper and at least to a position vertically beneath a lateral side of the upper.

Claim 26. (*New*) An article of footwear comprising:

an upper extending in a longitudinal direction between a heel zone and a forefoot zone and in a transverse direction between a medial side and a lateral side;

an outer bottom assembly positioned beneath the upper, the outer bottom assembly comprising:

an outsole;

an elastically deformable element having a substantially arch-shape in said transverse direction;

the elastically deformable element extending transversely and downward from an uppermost central portion at least to a position vertically beneath the medial side of the upper and at least to a position vertically beneath the lateral side of the upper;

the elastically deformable element being located in a heel zone and/or in a forefoot zone of the article of footwear;

shock-absorbing material positioned between the elastically deformable element and the outsole;

a material forming an intermediate member positioned between the elastically deformable element and the upper, the intermediate member extending at least from the position vertically beneath the medial side of the upper to the position vertically beneath the lateral side of the upper.

Claim 27. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 26, wherein:

said shock-absorbing material positioned between the elastically deformable element and the outsole comprises a foam having a hardness between 20 and 200 Asker C.

Claim 28. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 26, wherein:

said material of said intermediate member comprises a foam having a hardness between 20 and 200 Asker C.

Claim 29. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 26, wherein:

said elastically deformable element extends transversely from a medial edge to a lateral edge;

said elastically deformable element has an upwardly facing convex surface between said medial and lateral edges.

Claim 30. (New) An article of footwear according to claim 29, wherein:

said elastically deformable element comprises a plurality of arms projecting outwardly from said medial edge and a plurality of arms projecting outwardly from said lateral edge.